

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 061609
ORIGIN ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 DHA-02 ISO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY D/HA/ORM:HBCUSHING:AVR

APPROVED BY D/HA-MR. CARLIN

ORM-SCLOWMAN

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P 190512Z MAR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC PRIORITY

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FOL REPEAT SINGAPORE 1123 ACTION SECSTATE KUALA LUMPUR
INFO BANGKOK GENEVA SONGKHLA USUN NY JAKARTA HONG KONG
CANBERRA BRISBANE MANILA TOKYO DATED 18 MAR 77

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 1123

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, VS, SN, MY

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES TAKE OVER WCRP VESSEL ROLAND

REF: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 1627 (B) SINGAPORE 0778

1. CONOFF RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL MARCH 18 FROM
RICHARD PASCOE, AMCIT OWNER OF WCRP CHARTERED VESSEL
ROLAND (REFTEL B), REPORTING THAT CREW HAD ABANDONED
SHIP ON THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 17, AT KUALA TRENGGANU
AFTER BEING ATTACKED BY REFUGEES WITH STICKS AND CLUBS.
TWO MEMBERS OF THE CREW REQUIRED HOSPITALIZATION. THE
CHIEF OF POLICE IN KUALA TRENGGANU WAS NOTIFIED, BUT
ALLEGEDLY CHOSE TO IGNORE THE SITUATION. PASCOE IN-
DICATED THAT ONLY FOOD REMAINING ON THE VESSEL WAS RICE.

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THE ROLAND HAS ABOUT 30 TONS OF FUEL ON BOARD, ENOUGH
FOR ABOUT 20 DAYS SAILING. PASCOE SAID FUEL ON THE
BARGE WAS NO LONGER USEABLE, BUT THAT 30 TONS ABOARD THE
VESSEL COULD TAKE THE REFUGEES A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE
SINCE THE VESSEL COULD TRAVEL 150 MILES A DAY ON A TON
AND A HALF OF FUEL.

2. JACK, IN MEETING WITH CONOFF ON MARCH 17, REPORTED THAT 88 REFUGEES HAD BEEN PERMITTED ASHORE AT KUALA TRENGGANU. AUSTRALIA ACCEPTED 74 OF THE GROUP, SWITZERLAND 13 AND HONG KONG ONE. THIS LEAVES APPROXIMATELY 200 REFUGEES ABOARD THE ROLAND.

3. JACK ALSO TOLD CONOFF WCRP VESSEL LEAP DAL WAS STILL LOCATED OFF COAST OF JOHORE ABOUT 20 MILES EAST OF CHANGI POINT (SINGAPORE). HE SAID HE HAD LEFT TWO PERSONS IN BANGKOK TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH RTG, BUT DID NOT SEEM TO BE VERY OPTIMISTIC THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS WOULD LEAD TO FAVORABLE CONCLUSION.
HOLDRIDGE UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 19-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Litigation History:
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